

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. **(Currently Amended)** A food or beverage, comprising:

a mineral composition, comprising:

a metal salt having a solubility product in water at 25°C of  $1.0 \times 10^{-7}$  or less and

an emulsifier having an HLB of 6 to 10,

wherein the metal salt comprises fine particles having an average particle size of 0.05 to

1  $\mu\text{m}$ ,

wherein the emulsifier comprises a diglycerol fatty acid ester and an amount of the emulsifier is 0.5 to 50 parts by weight, based on 100 parts by weight of the metal salt, and

wherein a monoester content of the diglycerol fatty acid ester is 50% by weight or more.

2-3. (Cancelled)

4. **(Currently Amended)** The food or beverage mineral composition according to claim 1, wherein the metal salt is a salt of at least one member selected from the group consisting of calcium, magnesium, iron and zinc.

5. (Cancelled)

6. **(Currently Amended)** The food or beverage mineral composition according to claim 1, wherein the metal salt is selected from the group consisting of calcium carbonate, calcium phosphate, magnesium phosphate, magnesium oxide, ferric pyrophosphate, zinc hydroxide, zinc pyrophosphate, zinc oxide and dolomite having a  $\text{MgCO}_3 \cdot \text{CaCO}_3$  composition.

7. **(Currently Amended)** The food or beverage mineral composition according to claim 1, wherein the emulsifier does not include enzymatically decomposed lecithins.

8. **(Currently Amended)** The food or beverage mineral composition according to claim 1, wherein the HLB of the emulsifier is from 6 to 9.

9. **(Currently Amended)** The food or beverage mineral composition according to claim 1, wherein the HLB of the emulsifier is from 7 to 9.

10. **(Currently Amended)** The food or beverage mineral composition according to claim 1, wherein the amount of the emulsifier is from 1 to 40 parts by weight, based on 100 parts by weight of the metal salt.

11. **(Currently Amended)** The food or beverage mineral composition according to claim 1, wherein the amount of the emulsifier is from 5 to 30 parts by weight, based on 100 parts by weight of the metal salt.

12. **(Currently Amended)** The food or beverage mineral composition according to claim 1, wherein the monoester content of the diglycerol fatty acid ester is 70% by weight or more.

13. **(New)** An aqueous composition, comprising:

(1) a metal salt having a solubility product in water at 25°C of  $1.0 \times 10^{-7}$  or less,

(2) an emulsifier having an HLB of 6 to 10, and

(3) water,

wherein the metal salt is dispersed in water;

wherein the metal salt comprises fine particles having an average particle size of 0.05 to 1  $\mu\text{m}$ ;

wherein the emulsifier comprises a diglycerol fatty acid ester and an amount of the emulsifier is 0.5 to 50 parts by weight, based on 100 parts by weight of the metal salt; and

wherein a monoester content of the diglycerol fatty acid ester is 50% by weight or more.

14. **(New)** A powder composition which is obtained by a process comprising drying the aqueous composition of claim 13.

15. (New) The aqueous composition according to claim 13, wherein the metal salt is a salt of at least one member selected from the group consisting of calcium, magnesium, iron and zinc.

16. (New) The aqueous composition according to claim 13, wherein the metal salt is selected from the group consisting of calcium carbonate, calcium phosphate, magnesium phosphate, magnesium oxide, ferric pyrophosphate, zinc hydroxide, zinc pyrophosphate, zinc oxide and dolomite having a  $MgCO_3 \cdot CaCO_3$  composition.

17. (New) The aqueous composition according to claim 13, wherein the emulsifier does not include enzymatically decomposed lecithins.

18. (New) The aqueous composition according to claim 13, wherein the HLB of the emulsifier is from 6 to 9.

19. (New) The aqueous composition according to claim 13, wherein the HLB of the emulsifier is from 7 to 9.

20. (New) The aqueous composition according to claim 13, wherein the amount of the emulsifier is from 1 to 40 parts by weight, based on 100 parts by weight of the metal salt.

21. (New) The aqueous composition according to claim 13, wherein the amount of the emulsifier is from 5 to 30 parts by weight, based on 100 parts by weight of the metal salt.

22. (New) The aqueous composition according to claim 13, wherein the monoester content of the diglycerol fatty acid ester is 70% by weight or more.